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7 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable John N. Irwin, II
The Under Secretary of State

SUBJECT: The Joint Weeka

1. Herewith are some recommendations developed in the Agency in response to my request that we examine the effects caused by the elimination of the Joint Weeka many months ago. I am also giving you a commentary we prepared on State Department reporting.

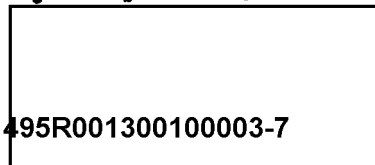
2. The attached review of the Joint Weeka shows that it made a particularly useful contribution to the production of political intelligence, but its contribution to military intelligence was marginal for most countries. Our review of the current situation shows that many missions are now cabling weekly summaries which are a good substitute for certain aspects formerly covered by the Joint Weeka. This is particularly true with respect to economic information.

3. On this basis we recommend that the Joint Weeka be re-instituted but on a selective basis both with respect to country and to topic. Specific guidelines for implementing this recommendation as follows:

a. The Joint Weeka should be revived for political reporting from all countries except the following from which present reporting mechanisms have proved to be adequate:



A further qualification to the need for periodic political reporting is that for the countries of southern and western Africa our need could be satisfied by monthly or quarterly reporting.



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b. The few countries for which Joint Weeka economic reporting should be revived are:



c. Given our reliance on other sources for military intelligence, we would recommend that a revived Joint Weeka only from the USSR include a military section.

(Signed) Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

Attachment - 1

The Joint Weeka - No. 2558/72, 26 July 1972.

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